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Book Reviews

The Religion of the Post-Exilic Prophets. By PROFESSOR W. H. BENNETT. London: T. and T. Clark; New York: Scribners, 1908. Pp. 396. \$2.

This is the first volume issued in a series of "The Literature and Religion of Israel," edited by the Rev. James Hastings, D.D., published by T. & T. Clark of Edinburgh, and imported by Scribners. To Professor Skinner is due the classification of the literature of the series, which with the authors assigned is as follows: "Foundations," by Professor Morris Jastrow; "Institutions and Legislation," by Professor A. R. S. Kennedy; "History," by Professor Hope W. Hogg; "Psalms," by Professor Buchanan Gray; "Pre-Exilic Prophets," by Professor R. H. Kennett; "Post-Exilic Prophets," by Professor W. H. Bennett; "Wisdom Literature," by Professor J. Skinner; "Historical Apologues," by Dr. James Moffatt; "Apocalyptic Literature," (2 vols.), by Professor R. H. Charles. The names of these authors are a sufficient guarantee of the high character of the scholarly work to be expected, and the first volume issued abundantly justifies this expectation. Professor Bennett is well known as an eminent Old Testament scholar, author of an *Old Testament Introduction* and of a *Primer of the Bible*; *Joshua* in the Polychrome Series; and of a number of important articles in Hastings' *Dictionary of the Bible* and the *Encyclopaedia Biblica*.

The critical standpoint assumed in this volume is practically that of Hastings' *Dictionary of the Bible*. This will doubtless be the same in the other volume of the series.

The conception of the series is a significant fact in biblical study as it clearly recognizes the truth that in order to gain a true knowledge of Old Testament doctrine not only must each period be studied but also each class of literature. The significance of the contribution of the present volume to Old Testament study is twofold: first, because the prophetic teaching represents the highest plane of Old Testament inspiration, and secondly, because there is an increasing realization on the part of the biblical scholars of the importance of the Exile and the subsequent centuries in the religious development of Israel. Though this latter point is referred to and implied in the different chapters, a separate chapter or section (even if the treatment had to be brief) could have been given with advantage especially to the significance of the Exile, in which the main features

of importance could have been grouped for the benefit of the reader. It should be noted that the prophetic literature of the Exile is included in this volume.

The first part of the book is devoted to the separate prophecies taken in chronological order. In regard to the knotty problem of the Servant-of-Jehovah passages (poems), viz., Isa. 42:1-9; 49:1-13; 50:4-11; 52:13-53:12, the author is inclined to the view of different authorship from the rest of chaps. 40-55. In any case they possess features in common not found in the rest of this section, and so can well be treated separately in a work on biblical theology. Following Duhm, Cheyne, and other recent writers Isa., chaps. 56-66 is considered an appendix to Isa., chaps. 40-55, dating largely from the years 470-420 B.C., i. e., a period which includes the time of Ezra and Nehemiah. To the Greek period are assigned Joel, Zech. chaps. 9-14, Jonah, and Isa., chaps. 24-27.

The following is the plan or treatment in these chapters: A brief outline (or analysis) of the prophecy is first given. This is followed by a statement of what is known of the prophet himself, and then comes the summation of the principal features of his work and teaching. This represents an excellent piece of analytic and constructive work. This can be seen for instance in the treatment of Ezekiel, the importance of whose conserving work in the political and religious life of Israel is being more and more appreciated. This prophet's importance he considers due to two facts (p. 28): first that his faith survived the destruction of Jerusalem, and as a result he was able to inspire hope in the despairing exiles; and in the second place on account of the happy blending of the prophet and priest in his person, so "that he was enabled to mediate between the sacerdotal and the prophetic tendencies in the religion of Israel." Under these two heads he thinks that most of Ezekiel's characteristic teaching may be placed, and proceeds to classify it accordingly.

The second and larger part of the book (pp. 133-375) is taken up with the classification of the various doctrines of the exilic and post-exilic prophets. The scope of this treatment can be seen by reference to the titles of the different chapters: "The Nature and Attributes of God;" "God and the World, Nature;" "God and Man, the Gentiles;" "God and Israel;" "Revelation;" "Nature of Man;" "The Normal Religious Life;" "Righteousness and Sin;" "Rewards and Punishments;" "Atonement and Final Reprobation;" "The Future of Israel and the World—the Kingdom of God;" "The Messiah;" "The Individual after Death."

These are chapters of great value and interest to the Old Testament student. The one on "Atonement and Final Reprobation" is of special

interest, particularly in the discussion whether the Old Testament presents a theory of sacrifice. Here the author agrees with Piepenbring that "it does not explain just how the atonement is effected" (p. 323).

The prophets and lawgivers [he adds] did not invent sacrifices; they found them existing as part of the normal religious life of the people. . . . Most priests would be as little interested in any theory of sacrifice as a modern choir-leader in the question why anthems are pleasing to the Almighty (pp. 323 f.). . . . If reasons were asked for sacrificing according to some specific ritual, it would be sufficient to reply that it was so ordained of God (p. 324).

He cites the late Professor Davidson's conclusion, that the expression in Lev. 17:11, "for the life of the flesh is in the blood," "comes nearest to explanation though without supplying it" (p. 325). He notes also the words of the same verse: "I (Jehovah) have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls (lives)" as bearing out his view, i.e., "the blood atones because God has appointed that it should atone" (p. 325).

The author deals with the doctrine of vicarious atonement, especially as emphasized in the great Servant passage, Isa. 52:13—53:12, where "the fact of vicarious atonement could hardly be more clearly and definitely expressed; but still the passage does not provide us with any theory; it does not say why God should forgive sinners because an innocent man had suffered" (p. 327).

To those who are accustomed to read philosophical conceptions into biblical passages the author's treatment of this important subject will doubtless seem unsatisfactory, but the more one familiarizes himself with the Hebrew mental attitude the more will Professor Bennett's conclusions commend themselves. The absence of the philosophical and speculative spirit, especially in reference to religious practices, is one of the marked characteristics of the Old Testament writers.

Professor Bennett has furnished an important contribution to Old Testament study. His book will be indispensable to Old Testament teachers, and to ministers who desire a scholarly treatment of the prophetic literature in this important period of Israel's history. There is nothing however of a technical character in the book to debar its use from the layman. It would mark a distinct advance in the work of religious education if books such as this would be read and studied by Sunday-school teachers and other Christian workers. Such a book as this ought to help to dispel any lingering misapprehension that critical study cannot be combined with reverent attitude toward the Bible and with positive, religious contribution to biblical knowledge.

A careful reference in footnotes to biblical passages and to authors cited, also indices of subjects and scriptural passages, are features of the volume to be commended.

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The Censorship of the Church of Rome and the Influence upon the Production and Distribution of Literature. A Study of the History of the Prohibitory and Expurgatory Indexes, together with Some Consideration of the Effects of Protestant Censorship and of Censorship by the State. By GEORGE HAVEN PUTNAM. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. Vol. I, pp. xxxv+375, \$2.50; Vol. II, pp. 510, \$2.50.

These volumes undertake as their principal function a presentation of indexes which were issued under the authority of the church of Rome, or which, compiled by ecclesiastics, were issued by the state between 1546 and 1900. As secondary function the volumes give "a selection of the more noteworthy examples of censorship during the earlier centuries of the church," record instances of censorship by states, discuss the effect of censorship on the production and distribution of literature, and, finally, attempt a study of the literary policy of the modern church.

This is a programme of wide range and the author disavows any pretension to completeness on the subject of indexes and asserts that he presents simply "examples of prohibition and condemnations, from decade to decade, which were typical or characteristic, and from which some impression could be gathered as to the nature and extent of the censorship experiments throughout the centuries in the several communities concerned" (Preface p. v). It seems to the reviewer that the author failed in the undertaking here expressed because, though the indexes are usually similar rather than dissimilar, he gave such numerous details about each successive one, that what is "typical or characteristic" is lost in the midst of what is common to many. Indeed about three-quarters of the work, consisting as they do of unsystematically arranged lists of indexes from 1546 to modern times, each with more or less repetitious detail, form infinitely wearisome reading. But to be just to the author in this matter it must be stated that he expressly intended these books for reference rather than for reading. He has therefore arranged "the material according to the cyclopaedia method, under certain main headings with sub-headings for the special divisions of each subject. Such an arrangement involves, of necessity, some repetition" (Preface, p. vii). One can satisfy himself